Supply of sub-standard coal to Thermal Power Stations

288. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that open cast mines of Coal India Limited are producing sub-standard coal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the supply of sub-standard coal, the machinery of coal washeries and thermal power stations is adversely affected; and

(c) if so, what corrective measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) It is true that some of the coal produced from opencast mines of Coal India Limited does not conform to the stated specifications. This is mainly due to mixture of overburden with coal at the time of mining in opencast mines.

(b) Power Stations and other consumers have occasionally complained about damage to the Coal Handling Plants because coal received by them was larger than the size required.

(c) In order to ensure loading of uniform sized coal free from extraneous material, Coal Handling Plants are being provided at various loading points. Coal India is now laying great stress on quality control. Complaints received from the different sectors' consumers are monitored and corrective action taken. The supervision of wagon loading at the collieries has also been tightened and all consumers have been given the facility for supervising loading of wagons at the loading point itself.

Crisis faced by Textile Mill in West Bengal

289. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the crisis being faced by the textile mills in Eastern India particularly in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to provide them necessary relief and have these mills from a total collapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No crisis has been reported by Textile Mills in Eastern India, particularly from West Bengal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of above.

Passenger on a dharna inside the aircraft

290. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, on October 13, 1991 the passengers of the Indian Airlines Calcutta-Dibrugarh flight sat on a 'Dharna' inside the aircraft when after three hours delay the flight was cancelled because of "unclean cabin" and the passengers had to be accommodated at the airport hotel;

(b) if so, what is the expenditure Indian Airlines had to incur to accommodate the passengers at airport hotel;

(c) whether any inquiry into the negligence resulting in the cancellation of the flight causing inconvenience to the passengers besides incurring of avoidable expenditure has been made by Government; and